

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3339
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 22588

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EG IS
SUBJECT: RECEPTION OF ISRAELIS NOT ALL EUPHORIC

1. BELIEVE ADDRESSEES WILL, FROM EMBASSY REPORTING AND MEDIA ACCOUNTS, HAVE RECEIVED IMPRESSION THAT ISRAELI DELEGATION TO CAIRO CONFERENCE AND ISRAELI JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED WITH EUPHORIA, GOODWILL AND UNEXPECTED WARMTH BY ALL EGYPTIANS. THIS IMPRESSION IS BY AND LARGE ACCURATE AND WE KNOW OF NO SERIOUS INCIDENT TO INDICATE OTHERWISE. HOWEVER, SOME INCIDENTS HAVE COME TO OUR ATTENTION THAT SUGGEST PACE OF DIRECT CONTACTS MAY BE MOVING TOO FAST FOR SOME EGYPTIANS.

2. MFA UNDER SECRETARY AHMED OSMAN HAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS EXPRESSED CONCERN TO AMBASSADOR THAT PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WILL MEAN BEGINNING OF ISRAELI ECONOMIC
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HEGEMONY OVER EGYPT AND OTHER ARAB STATES. OSMAN DOES NOT CITE ANY SPECIFIC EXAMPLES, BUT AS ADDRESSEES AWARE IS EXPRESSING LONG-STANDING ARAB FEAR.

3. ISRAELI JOURNALISTS, MOST OF WHOM STRIKE US AS COMPETENT AND HIGHLY ENERGETIC IN FERRETING OUT STORIES, HAVE ATTEMPTED TO COVER ALL ASPECTS OF EGYPTIAN LIFE.

SOME OF THEM HAVE ATTENDED (UNINVITED) MEETINGS SUCH AS CURRENT ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF EGYPTIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND SHOWN UP AT CLASSES AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY (AUC). SOME HAVE ASKED WHEN DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI SCIENTISTS AND SCHOLARS COULD BEGIN AND NOT SURPRISINGLY, RECEIVED CONFLICTING RESPONSES FROM EGYPTIANS SINCE THERE IS NOT YET CLEAR GOVERNMENT POSITION. SOME EGYPTIANS HAVE APPARENTLY ALSO BEEN PUT OFF BY WHAT THEY CONSIDER "AGGRESSIVE" BEHAVIOR. ONE EGYPTIAN REMARKED THAT SOME JOURNALISTS ARE GOING AROUND AS IF THEY OWN CAIRO. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD OF ONE INCIDENT IN AUC CLASSROOM WHERE EGYPTIAN STUDENT TOOK OFFENSE WITH REMARK BY ISRAELI AND DEPARTED STATING HE REFUSED TO STAY IN SAME ROOM.

4. SECURITY CONCERNS. YUGOSLAV COUNSELOR TELLS US THAT THREE ISRAELI JOURNALISTS WITH WHOM HE SPOKE HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER SECURITY. THEY DO NOT VENTURE AROUND CAIRO WITHOUT SECURITY GUARDS. VAST MAJORITY, HOWEVER, DO NOT NOTIFY SECURITY DETAILS OF THEIR PLANS AND ARE APPARENTLY CONTINUING TO GO WHERE THEY LIKE UNESCORTED.

5. COMMENT: TEN DAYS AGO ONE OF MOST RESPONSIBLE ISRAELI JOURNALISTS TOLD POLCOUNS THAT SHE WAS CONCERNED THAT SOME OF HER COLLEAGUES WERE SO EXCITED BY CONFIDENTIAL

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VISITING CAIRO THAT THEY WOULD OVERPLAY THEIR WELCOME AND RISK CREATING ADVERSE EGYPTIAN REACTION TO DIRECT CONTACTS. IN FEW CASES THIS APPEARS TO BE HAPPENING.
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